

Borough of Chippenham
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Annual Report

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

AND

Tabular Statistics

FOR THE YEAR 1914.

Table 1—VITAL STATISTICS OF WHOLE DISTRICT DURING 1914 AND PREVIOUS YEARS.

Year.	Population estimated to Middle of each Year.	Births.			Total Deaths Registered in the District.		Transferable Deaths.		Nett Deaths Belonging to the District.		
		Un-corrected number.	Nett.		Number.	Rate.	of Non-Registered in the District.	of Residents not Registered in the District.	Under 1 Year of Age.		At all Ages.
			Number.	Rate.					Number.	Rate per 1,000 Nett Births.	
1909	5074	125	24.63	46	9.06	1	6	7	56.0	51	10.9
1910	—	110	21.67	71	13.99	8	6	9	81.8	69	13.59
1911	5332	104	19.5	53	9.93	7	10	9	86.5	56	10.5
1912	—	106	19.8	49	9.19	9	6	8	75.47	46	8.6
1913	—	93	17.4	62	11.5	6	11	3	32.2	67	12.3
1914	5720	113	19.7	57	9.9	5	10	7	61.00	62	10.34

Total population at all ages, 5720, at census 1911.

Table 2—CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR 1914.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	NUMBER OF CASES NOTIFIED.								Total cases Removed to Hospital
	At all Ages.	AT AGES—Years.							
		Under 1.	1 and under 5 years.	5 and under 15 years.	15 and under 25 years.	25 and under 45 years.	45 and under 65 years.	65 and upwards.	
Diphtheria (including Membranous Croup)	23	...	4	18	1	...	...	...	19
Erysipelas	5	...	...	...	...	2	1	2	...
Puerperal Fever	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	9	...	...	1	1	3	4	...	...
Other forms of Tuberculosis	2	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...
TOTALS.	40	...	5	20	2	6	5	2	19

Table 3—CAUSES OF, AND AGES AT DEATH DURING THE YEAR 1914.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	Nett Deaths at subjoined Ages of "Residents," whether occurring within or without the District.								Total Deaths, whether of "Residents" or "Non-Residents" in Institutions in the District.
	AT ALL AGES.	Under 1 year.	1 and under 2 years.	2 and under 5 years.	5 and under 15 years.	15 and under 25 years.	25 and under 45 years.	45 and under 65 years.	65 and upwards.
All causes (certified)	62	7	1	3	3	3	7	13	25
Diphtheria and Croup	2	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...
Influenza	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
Phthisis (Pulmonary Tuberculosis)	3	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
Tuberculous Meningitis	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cancer, malignant disease...	8	...	...	...	...	...	1	3	4
Organic Heart Disease	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Bronchitis	8	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	3
Pneumonia (all forms)	11	1	...	1	2	1	...	3	5
Nephritis and Bright's Disease	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Congenital Debility and Malformation, including Premature Birth	5	5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Suicide	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
Other Defined Diseases	18	1	...	1	...	1	3	3	9
Totals	62	7	1	3	3	3	7	13	25
									9

BOROUGH OF CHIPPENHAM.

MEDICAL OFFICER'S ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1914.

GENTLEMEN,

Physical Features. Through the Town runs the bend of the River Avon entering at the South-East, looping round on the North, and passing out at the South. The Eastern half of the River bend is at a higher level than the Western half, being kept up six or eight feet by a Mill and Weir near the Town Bridge. Most of the new houses have been erected on the North side of the River. Into the Southern portion of the Town runs a branch of the Wilts and Berks Canal, at a higher level than the River and not communicating with it. The Canal is not used. The Town lies in a valley, having higher ground on every side, still, almost everywhere it stands well above the River level, and has well marked regular slopes towards each part of the stream. The Railway accommodation is good. Early in the year in answer to a representative from your Council, a inquiry was held to consider the propriety of extending the Borough. H. Ross Hooper, Esq., L.G.B. Inspector, presided. As a result of his report, the Urban District has been extended, the population now being about 8,006.

The soil of the Town is corn brash, to the South-East and West of the Town the corn brash is covered in many parts with a considerable depth of Oxford clay.

Social Conditions. The population of the district is 8000. There is plenty of work and plenty of amusement for the young in Chippenham. The Iron Works are busy, the Bacon Factory constantly going. The Cloth Factory, Gas Works, the Building Trade, Tannery, the two Milk Factories, and a Boot Factory offer work to men; while for women, the Anglo-Swiss and Nestlé Milk Factory, the Cloth Factory, and an important Laundry offer a choice

of work. None of these trades influence public health. There is also amusement for all. There are good Football, Cricket, and Electric Theatre, a New Hall has been built for various kinds of shows, it is well attended by all classes. There are besides three Clubs, with rooms for reading and games.

Industries. The principal Industries are, two Milk Factories, one Cheese Factory, a Cloth Factory, a large Iron Works, two Bacon Curing Companies, and a smaller Iron Works; none of these works or occupations influence the public health.

Poor Law Relief. I am informed that the indoor relief amounts to £2285 per annum for the whole Union. The out-door relief costs £2444 per annum, making roughly a cost of 4/- per head of the population per annum.

Other Hospital Accommodation. There is a Cottage Hospital in Chippenham into which 188 patients were admitted, 55 came from the villages around, 133 from Chippenham, there were six deaths. A small charge is made in most cases for admission. This Hospital has been exceedingly useful for the treatment of Children's throats. During the year 29 operations were performed for the removal of tonsils and adenoids. I am sure the County School Medical Officer will be pleased with this, as throat diseases are often the cause of ailments which render School attendance irregular.

An Account of any influences threatening the health of the district—The prevalence of Infectious Disease.

The Great War has caused a considerable number of men to pass through the Town, also, we have the Head-quarters of the Reserve Regiment of Royal Wiltshire Yeomanry, besides 8 or 10 Officers, about 150 men are billeted throughout the Town. No Infectious or Contagious Disease has been introduced by them, and the health of the Troops has been good, if we except influenza, which has been very prevalent amongst them. Manufacturers of various commodities have been fortunate in securing War Office contracts for goods; this has given employment to workers, and lessened the weight of the burdens increased prices has caused.

Diphtheria. This disease was present from February 19th till May, and again from November 19th till December 5th, in all there were 23 cases. For some years there have been outbreaks of Diphtheria, for the most part, occurring in the Western portion of

the district. In this district the streets are new, the drainage new, water supply good; the houses are occupied for the most part by well-to-do persons, I have never been able to account for these outbreaks to my satisfaction. School influence accounted for some cases, but not the first or initial case. In May I asked Dr. Tubb Thomas to come over and see if he could help me. We went carefully over the district. Dr. Tubb Thomas did not think anything was wrong with the School premises, nor with the district as far as drainage, water supply and housing were concerned. He, however, took serious exception to two ponds in a field opposite the Schools. One was full of sewage, the other contained foul water. He recommended that both should be filled up; unfortunately, one was then in the Rural District, and both are used for watering cattle. These difficulties can now be more easily got over, as both ponds are now in the Urban District. In investigating the origin and progress of these two outbreaks, swabs were taken and examined from all suspected cases. These means, no doubt, were very useful for diagnosis, and helpful to control the outbreak, especially in the November outbreak. Nineteen cases were removed to Hospital for isolation and treatment.

General and Special Inquiries.

17th Sept., 1914. A. M. BRIGHTMORE, Esq., D.Sc., M.I.C.E.
£1,500. Water Supply—Filtration and Aeration.

2nd April, 1914. H. S. STEWART, Esq., A.R.I., B.A.,
Erection of Workmen's Dwellings, £2,460

22nd January, 1914. H. R. HOOPER, Esq., M.I.C.E.
Borough Extension.

During the year 11 cases of Tuberculosis have been notified. These cases have been reported to Dr. Tubb Thomas, the County Medical Officer of Health. The County Council has arranged a Scheme for the treatment of insured and uninsured persons in the County, with the necessary Dispensaries, Sanatoria beds, and beds for advanced cases. The details have not yet been completely settled.

Housing and Town Planning Act. A careful inspection of the whole district has been made by myself in company with your Surveyor, with a view to enforcing the Public Health Act of 1875, and the more recent Housing and Town Planning Act, as a result 66 houses have been improved and made fit for habitation.

Three cases of overcrowding have been abated. Forty-five cases of house drains were found to be defective, these were altered and

put in good order; in 33 instances new drains were laid down to houses.

19 new closets were provided, 2 were repaired and improved. The slaughterhouses were also inspected during the year. The Sewerage outfall and works were also inspected and found in good order.

In Chippenham we have a good water supply and good drainage. I know of no special influences threatening the health of the district

The statement of the Surveyor, Mr. Adams, is enclosed with my report. Beside the house to house inspection made with me, a large number of inspections not recorded in this statement were made by Mr. Adams when required, and include inspections of infected houses, insanitary houses, overcrowding, defective drains, &c.

Housing. Fifteen statutory notices were issued, all were complied with. 125 informal notices were served, 109 have been complied with. I am able to report that the Sanitary conditions of the district is well maintained.

Milk Supply. This part of Wiltshire being a great dairy district it is not surprising that we find here an excellent and abundant supply of milk on sale. There are nine milksellers registered. The milk is in most cases brought into the town in cans from various farms; a portion is obtained from the depot of the "Wiltshire Farmers" Milk Company. This Company do not make butter or separate cream for any purpose from the milk. All the dairies in the Urban District use the town water for dairy purposes. I have, when inspecting the country dairies sending milk for consumption in Chippenham, inquired into the quality of water used for dairy purposes; in some cases it is exposed to pollutions from defective drains, in others from the runnings from manure heaped up in yards during the winter months. The Sanitary Authorities now expect not merely the cowsheds to be whitewashed at regular intervals and the floors to be kept clean, the yards must also be well drained and the manure regularly removed from them.

Other Foods. There is an excellent supply of first quality Butchers' meat to be found in the town. There is also good foreign meat sold, wholesome in quality. Your Officers, aided by the police, do all in their power to prevent the flesh of diseased animals being sold. The meat and fish sold in the Market Place is frequently inspected by myself, and the slaughterhouses are also inspected. The Wiltshire Bacon Factory has been regularly inspected by myself, and the bacon for export examined. The premises are all that

can be desired and are entirely free from nuisance. Your Council have made no arrangement for the inspection of meat except such inspections as are made by Mr. Adams and myself. There are ten ordinary slaughterhouses, these are visited about four times a year. There are besides, two large bacon curing establishments, these are inspected more frequently.

Fish Inspections. The inspection of fish is also carried out, including that which is exposed for sale in the Market Place.

Water Supply.

This is derived from a well the property of the Authority, the quality as shown by analysis taken from time to time is excellent and the quantity is abundant. It is distributed over the whole district in pipes, and is not likely to have plumbo-solvent action. For some years, at uncertain times, conditions and places, a quantity of rust was found in the water, which also had a peculiar smell. To remedy these conditions if possible, your Council called in the aid of Dr. Rideal and other noted chemists and water specialists. The Candy Aerating Filter erected last year on the low level pumping main with a view to remove the iron in solution and suspension in the water proved so successful that it is now the intention of the Council, acting on the advice of their Water Works Engineer, Mr. Adams, to erect one of these filters on the high level pumping main also.

The estimated cost of the works is £1,500 and the Local Government Board sanction has been received. The work will be completed before March, 1915. There is already a marked improvement in the water and the Council and the consumers appear to be well satisfied with the result.

(Copy.)

Western Counties' Laboratory,
11a College Green, Bristol, January 12th, 1914.

Dear Sir,

FILTERED WATER.

Water from 10 taps on the Low Level after passing
through Candy's Aerating Filter.

I beg to hand you results of analysis of the above sample of water received from you on the 7th inst.

		Grains per gallon.
Iron	... ..	... .003
Oxygen in solution	...	... .69
Carbon Dioxide	... ..	... 1.54

The water was bright and clear on arrival, and showed a marked reduction in the iron present. If the filter continues to yield a water of this quality, I think all the trouble from iron will have disappeared.

Yours faithfully,

A. E. ADAMS, ESQ.

HAROLD F. BARKE, Public Analyst

(Copy.)

Western Counties' Laboratory,
11a College Green, Bristol, January 12th, 1914.

UNFILTERED WATER.

Water from taps on the High Level.

I beg to hand you results of analysis of the above sample of water received from you on the 7th inst.

				Grains per gallon
Saline Ammonia	...	...	...	.0005
Albuminoid Ammonia	...	...	...	.0007
Nitrogen as Nitrate	...	...	...	.02
Nitrites	...	...	...	absent
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hrs. at 80 F	...	...	...	.005
Total dissolved solids	...	...	...	35.0
Chlorine as Chloride	...	...	...	2.9
Earthy Carbonates	...	...	...	19.0
Earthy Salts not Carbonates	...	...	...	3.0
Hardness	...	...	...	23.0
Poisonous Metals	...	...	...	absent
Iron	...	...	...	.07
Sediment, small of precipitated iron.				

This water, which was turbid and yellowish brown colour on arrival, shows no evidence of organic pollution, and but for the presence of a little iron, would be well suited for domestic and drinking supply.

Yours faithfully,

A. E. ADAMS, ESQ.

HAROLD F. BARKE, Public Analyst.

River. The river is free from pollution.

Sewerage. An extensive system of sewerage on approved methods has been in use for some seven years now, throughout the whole town, the works are giving satisfaction, and producing a good effluent. The outfall and tanks are under the care of an expert workman, acting under the advice and instruction of your Surveyor (Mr. Adams). The whole of the sewerage of the town ultimately reach this sewerage system. Ventilated with manholes and ventilating columns; all the sewers are laid to give a self-cleansing velocity. About 900 yards of 9" sewer has been laid at the rear of London Road, discharging into the Higher Level Sewer in Bayntons Lane. This work was carried out at a cost of £240, and the expense was borne jointly by the property owners and the Council. The carrying out of this work will prevent the pollution of several ditches running through land stocked with cattle, the majority of which are Dairy Cows.

The Patterdown Sewage Disposal Works, now within the new Borough, is about to be remodelled, and the Borough Surveyor is preparing a scheme to submit to the Sanitary Committee before sending it to the Local Government Board for approval.

Privies and Water Closets. There are approximately 1321 houses in the town, of these, 821 have water closets and cisterns. The Council do not permit the erection of Sanitary conveniences other than water closets in new buildings. It is a cause for congratulation that the old-fashioned privy and earthen closets are now entirely done away with and superseded with Sanitary water closets.

House Refuse and Scavenging. This work is carried out by your Council, refuse being removed three times a week from all parts of the town.

There is no reason to suppose that the extension of the Borough will bring any number of unhealthy houses or conditions into the enlarged District, on the contrary, most of the houses, drains and sewers, are new, and of good construction, and the twelve new houses your Council have erected ought to more than compensate for the wretched dwellings you have pulled down.

The Tables of Vital Statistics which I have produced to you are as accurate as I can make them—the altered area, their population and number of houses on November 10th, are not yet quite accurately computed.

Lodging Houses. There are two Lodging Houses registered, these have been inspected by me.

Offensive Trades. There are no offensive trades carried on in this town.

The Public Elementary Schools have been inspected and the Sanitary conditions and Water Supply of the Schools were found to be satisfactory.

During the last year I have attended your Committee Meetings and reported the Zymotic cases notified during the preceding month. Special inspections were also made at the houses or districts where epidemic disease were present or had been present, and as a result several unhealthy conditions were removed. Printed instructions for disinfection were distributed at every house where infectious disease was present, and on the removal of the patient to the Isolation Hospital, or the recovery of the patient, the rooms were fumigated by your Surveyor.

Market. The Market for cattle and other animals formerly held in the square and streets is removed to more suitable quarters in the Market Yard. A copy of Bye-laws is enclosed regulating the New Market and rates there.

Midwives Act. My attention has not been called to any breach of rules governing midwives working in your district.

Infant Mortality. The number of deaths among infants under one year old, does not call for comment from me. I have distributed to mothers a small Pamphlet giving advice upon the feeding and management of children, which I think have been of use.

Inspection of School Children. The school children are inspected by Medical Officers appointed by the County Council. My relations with these Officers are intimate and cordial.

The Notification of Births Act, 1907, has not been adopted. I have no reason to suppose that the infant mortality is higher than it ought to be.

Infectious Disease. In your district, upon the receipt of a notification either of Scarlatina or Diphtheria (if the friends of the patient are willing) the case is removed in an ambulance in charge of a nurse, to the Isolation Hospital. The house or room is disinfected as soon after removal as possible by your Inspector, 17 rooms have been fumigated with Sulphur Dioxide (SO²) after infectious disease, and in every case the premises have been thoroughly inspected by Mr. Adams, your Surveyor.

Mr. Adams, Town Surveyor, is also the Inspector of Nuisances. He obtains all necessary help from the men in your employment.

Article V. Extract from the Housing Regulations, Sept., 1910. The number of dwellinghouses inspected under and for the purposes of the Act 1909, were 125.

360 visits were paid by Mr. Adams.

The number of dwellinghouses which on inspection were considered to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation were 0.

The number of representations made to the local authority with a view to the making of closing orders were 0.

The number of closing orders made were 0.

The number of dwellinghouses the defects in which were remedied without the making of closing orders were 109.

The number of dwellinghouses which, after the making of closing orders, were put into a fit state for human habitation, were 0.

The following were the general character of the defects found to exist:—Damp walls, defective roofs, defective paving and floors, windows fixed, roofs without spouting, earth abutting on walls causing dampness, untrapped opening in yards, defective flushing apparatus in closets.

Mr. Adams has drawn my attention to the houses he has specially inspected and scheduled according to the provisions of the Housing and Town Planning Act, something like 40 per cent. of the houses in the Borough have been so inspected.

Administration of Local Acts. The following are adopted and are in force:—

Infectious Diseases (Prevention) Act, 1890.

Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1890.

Lighting and Watching Act, 1833.

Chemical and bacteriological work.

Swabs are taken from the throat of every child convalescent from Diphtheria before discharge from the Isolation Hospital. They do not leave until the result is negative.

Isolation Hospital. This Hospital is worked jointly by the Chippenham Urban and Rural Sanitary Authorities. The Committee of Management is composed of fourteen members, two appointed by the County Council, four by the Urban and eight by Rural Authorities. Mr. Alderman Beaven is Chairman. The Committee meet once a month. The accommodation is sufficient. During the past year 71 patients have been admitted into the Hospital, 52 cases of Diphtheria and 19 cases of Scarlatina. Of the Diphtheria cases, 19 came from the Chippenham Urban District, 13 from Chippenham Rural District, and 20 from Devizes District. Of the Scarlatina cases, all the 19 came from the Chippenham Rural District. There were 5 deaths.

During July and August the Hospital was painted both outside and inside throughout. A ceiling was put up in the washhouse, and a new ironing table was erected. An Eagle range has been put up in the kitchen. The rain water tank has provided a good supply of water, which has been found most useful and economical in the laundry. The Thresh disinfecter is working satisfactorily.

Your Committee have become subscribers to the Clinical Research Association. This enables us to have bacteriological examination of the throat made before any child, convalescent from Diphtheria, is discharged from the Hospital.

The staff consists of a Matron, who is a certified nurse, an Assistant Nurse, one wardsmaid, one laundress, one cook; extra nurses are obtained from Nursing Homes and other Institutions when required. Nurse Warren is still acting as Matron, she still continues to enjoy the entire confidence of those working for and with her.

The thanks of the Committee are due to the North Wilts Needlework Guild, who send us through The Honbl. Lady Neeld, a nice parcel of children's woollen garments; also to the Wilts and Berks Toy Guild who sends us toys at Christmas. Children's clothes are most useful, the Matron is often sadly perplexed to find garments for the little ones when they are about to leave the warm wards for their draughty cottage homes.

These, Gentlemen, are some of the more important Sanitary matters which have engaged your attention, and the attention of your Officers during the past year. I have to thank Mr. Adams for his ready aid and prompt action in dealing with many small matters which did not come before you.

I have the honour to remain,

Your obedient Servant,

W. T. BRISCOE, M.D., B.A.

February, 1915.

